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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/505,408	10/16/2006	Norikazu Sato		8799
Norikazu Sato 2-46-8, Unoki, Ootaku Tokyo, 146-0091 JAPAN				
7590 10/30/2008			EXAMINER CHAN, KO HUNG	
			ART UNIT 3632	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/30/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/505,408

**Applicant(s)**

SATO ET AL.

**Examiner**

Korie H. Chan

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. "An additionally disposed inclination mechanism" in claim 1 is vague and indefinite as it is not clear in addition to what since there does not appear to be another disposed inclination mechanism. Again, the use of displays or units to describe the same element is confusing. Furthermore, claim 1, line 9, "unitsatanupper sideportionofthebasicdisplay" needs spacing between the terms. Regarding claim 2, lines 2-3, "a connection position of a connection half of the hinge" is vague and indefinite as it is not clear what applicant is referring to. Again, applicant inferentially claims there is a "support shaft" on line 4 of claim 2.

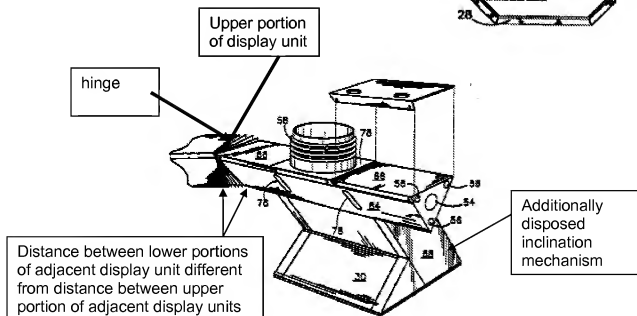
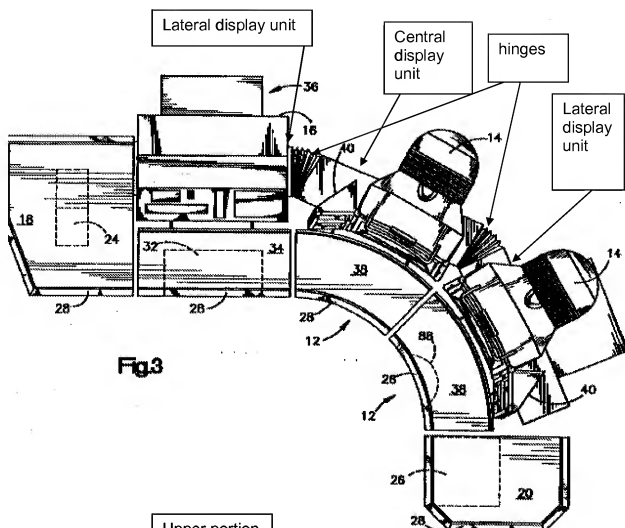
#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fowler et al (US patent no. 6,302,612). Fowler discloses a multi-display device, wherein a plurality of basic displays or basic units are horizontally arranged, a central basic display or central basic unit (131) is supported and held in an inclined state by an additionally disposed inclination mechanism (the ball underneath central screen 131 connected to

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the keyboard), lateral basic displays or lateral basic units (148) are connected to the central basic display or central basic unit (131) respectively by hinge members (ball and socket joint 147) so that a distance between the adjacent basic displays or basic units at an upper side portion of the basic display or basic unit is different from one at a lower side portion ( the universal joint 147 of Fowler permits such distance to be different).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maguire, Jr. (US patent no. 5,416,666). Maguire discloses a multi-display device having all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated below.



***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowler et al (US patent no. 6,302,612) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Fowler discloses all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated above except for in the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a shaft (3', figure 5) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Fowler with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one or ordinary skilled in the art.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire, Jr. (US patent no. 5,416,666) in view of Bonar (US patent no. 4,233,708). Maguire discloses all the claimed features of applicant's invention as illustrated above except for in the connection using the hinge member having a shaft and an upper side connection portion and a lower side connection portion are different from each other and are integrated in one hinge. Such hinge connection is old and well-known. Bonar teaches such connection using the hinge member having a shaft (3', figure 5) and an upper side connection portion (11) and a lower side connection portion (9) are different

from each other and are integrated in one hinge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modify the hinge of Maguire with the hinge of the type shown by Bonar. Such modification would have involved a mere substitution of one well-known type of hinge for another which is well within the ambit of one or ordinary skilled in the art.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 7/7/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that Fowler's lateral displays 148 are not such that the distance between the adjacent central and lateral basic displays at an upper side portion and a lower side portion thereof are different. Examiner respectively disagrees. Fowler's hinges is a ball joint and allows for universal adjustments and can be adjusted such that the distance between the adjacent central and lateral basic displays at an upper side portion and a lower side portion thereof are different. Applicant's argument that Maguire, Jr. shows the console bases 64 are supported by a hinge and not the display monitors 64. Examiner interpret each base with its supported video display together as a "basic display" or a "display unit". Applicant claimed language does not otherwise specified that the claimed display unit or basic display cannot have a base.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Korie H. Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-6816. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Allen Shriver can be reached on (571)272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Korie H. Chan/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

khc  
October 26, 2008